



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

**ICE agents arrest 8 in connection with fraudulent document ring in
Adams Morgan**
Arrests are the latest in "Operation Card Shark"

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Special Agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested eight illegal aliens and seized counterfeit documents as well as materials used in connection with fraudulent document ring at 3636 16th Street NW in the Adams Morgan Section of Washington, D.C.

Yesterday Carlos V. Medina, 33 was arrested and taken into custody by ICE agents following the execution of one federal arrest warrant and one search warrant at the 16th Street address. Medina was taken to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for his initial appearance for violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1546(a). The seven other individuals are currently in administrative custody awaiting their removal. All of the individuals arrested are citizens of Mexico.

Subsequent to the search, ICE agents seized over 100 fraudulent identity documents including, fake alien registration cards ("green cards"), fraudulent Social Security cards, bogus employment authorization cards, and other equipment believed to be used in the production of the fraudulent documents. Additional items seized included cell phones, numerous electronic devices, miscellaneous documentation and over \$14,000 in cash.

The law enforcement action was a joint operation in support of an ongoing ICE Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force initiative, Operation Card Shark. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, U.S. Secret Service Uniform Division and Street Service Agents assisted in the investigation.

"Today's arrests demonstrate ICE's commitment to thwarting identity theft and benefit fraud," said Bruce Foucart, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of ICE's Washington, D.C., Office of Investigations. "Fraudulent identification can be a preferred tool for criminal and terror networks to carry out their schemes. By targeting the people, money and



materials that support these illicit networks, ICE is putting these organizations out of business and increasing the overall security of the American homeland.”

Since May 2002, Operation Card Shark has identified several document vending organizations and has dismantled three of them. Eleven search warrants have been executed, seven document “mills” have been shut down, approximately 10,000 documents have been seized (with an estimated street value of over one million dollars), 195 aliens have been apprehended, and 60 have been prosecuted.

A conviction for fraudulent immigration documents (18 USC 1546) is punishable by up to ten years in prison or \$250,000 fine, or both.

Those arrested today were:

Mendez-Hernandez, Luis Angel, 21
Andres Angel Vasquez-Soriano, 41
Eladio Espinoza-Cuevas, 50
Alberto Martin Vasquez-Soriano, 40
Juan Antonio Pacheco-Vasquez, 20
Julio Cesar Pacheco-Vasquez, 24
Cesar Cuevas-Mendez, 24
Luis Vasquez, 33

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.